

INTELLIGENCE

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT PDP Adopts Four Months' Plan;
Other Activities of PDP

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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1. During the latter part of January the various brigades of the Partido del Pueblo (PDP) discussed their part in what has been termed the "Four Months' Plan." On 26 January the Santa Ana Brigade met in the house of Lopez and discussed the part it would play in this plan. The meeting was attended by Hugo Victor, Lenin Brower, J. Stavrou, Luis Caceres, and Silvia de Souza. The Four Months' Plan was to be presented to the whole membership of the PDP on 27 and 28 January. The first meeting was to be held at the home of Cesar De Leon and the second at #53 14th Street West, Panama City, the new headquarters of the PDP. It was announced that there would be a charge of 25¢ per person for organizational expenses and that the National Congress scheduled for April would be discussed.

2. The meetings for the presentation and adoption of the Four Months' Plan took place as scheduled. The first meeting, on Saturday 27 January, was poorly attended by about fifteen PDP members, including representatives from the National Directorate, the District Committee, and from the various brigades. The meeting began with a review by Julian Jaramillo of the activities and accomplishments in the 149 towns and villages in Panama. The report revealed that, outside of the activities in the larger urban areas, the accomplishments have been very poor. The party has been unable to reach the masses in general and the farmers and laborers outside of such areas as Panama City and Colon. Following this report Reuben Souza presented a history of the PDP, its foundation, and how it resulted from the dissolution of the Communist Party in 1943. He described the years under the leadership of Celso Solano, a period which is now referred to as "Solanista" and which is characterized as one of lack of accomplishment under a dictatorship which had not been elected by the mass of the party. He stated that from the time of the expulsion of Celso Solano all the decisions of the National Directorate have been and will continue to be discussed by each member of the party who is a true militant and who is worthy of being a member of the party. The party as it now exists is well on the road toward the accomplishment of the proletarian revolution in Panama and the liberation of Panama from the imperialist yoke.

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He stated that with each minute that the PDP lost it was possible that fifty Chinese and Korean comrades would die. He stated that the PDP had the responsibility for the Panamanian people and that it now stood with the other Communist Parties of the world, rifle in hand, struggling against international imperialism. Following this review was a general criticism of the lack of progress and the lack of vigilance on the part of both the national leadership and the members as a whole. All persons present individually and en masse accepted their culpability and lack of sufficient militancy and promised to reform. By use of a map of the Republic, it was pointed out that the PDP could claim only partial organization outside of Panama City--in the provinces of Colon, Chiriqui, Veraguas, and, very weakly, Herrera. The rest of the country is comparatively untouched. It was stated that although the PDP is not actively engaged in a revolution, such as that in China and Korea, it has the task of preparing the Panamanian people for the eventual economic and political revolution in Panama. To this end, all members are obliged to be constantly acting for the party or be classed as traitors to the cause.

3. The final meeting on Sunday heard and approved the plans of each brigade, and a plan of organization and action for the whole party was drawn up. An outline of this plan reveals the following programs:
 - a. The plan will have three major points--economic, national political, and international political. The main objective of the economic point is to work on behalf of the defense of national agriculture, industry, labor, and housing. Results are to be accomplished through the better organization of committees in these fields. The main objectives of the national political program are defense of the national constitution, opposition to the present Government and insistence that national elections are held in 1952. These aims are to be accomplished through groups represented by the Frente Democratico Pro-defensa de la Constitucion carrying out the program adopted by the Congress of Progressive Forces. The principal objective of the international political program is to work for peace and to strengthen the national sovereignty. This is to be accomplished through improved organization and mobilization of the students and youth of the country and through improvement in the present pro-peace organization.
4. To carry out the above three programs, the PDP has outlined the following organizational work to be carried out under the leadership of the National Directorate, the provincial committees, and the district committees, in the time set for the duration of the plan, from 4 February until 3 June 1951. To improve the PDP organization, the party will increase its efficiency and numbers in all the provinces and districts and the Canal Zone. The problem of finances is to be met through increased taxes to members of each of the committees, brigades and cells. The sale of the party newspaper EL PATRIOTA will be increased through better presentation, better distribution, and by a quota fixed for each organizational unit. The contribution of the youth of the country to this plan will be increased by more efficient organization of the Juventud Popular Revolucionaria (JPR), the youth group of the PDP. Political education will progress through the publication of a political review and courses of study for the party members. Conferences and lecture groups will be organized to discuss the material in this review, based on the particular problems of the region concerned. General propaganda will be improved through the more active circulation of El Patriota, more frequent meetings and the distribution of a greater number of fly sheets.
5. At the 27-28 January meeting each of the four cells presented its plan for carrying out its part in the project described above. Information taken from notes prepared by the Santa Ana Brigade indicates its proposed contribution and pledges as follows. The area of responsibility of the Santa Ana Brigade will be divided into four cells. Cell One, as organized so far, includes Luis Avila, Albertina de Victor and Luis Caceres. With reference

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to El Patriota, this brigade will furnish two members to work on its publication, will furnish a minimum of twenty articles during the four months, and will subscribe to a maximum of 150 copies per week. Youth cooperation will be increased through organization of a committee and clubs of the JPR. In the matter of political education the brigade can use five copies of Fundamentos, three copies of Cultura Soviética, five copies of pro-peace material, and fifteen copies of the monthly PDP bulletins. It will hold two political conferences per month and will put four members at the general disposal of the party. The brigade will contribute to party propaganda by obtaining a hand-operated mimeograph machine, holding meetings, and distributing fly sheets. Economically the brigade pledged organizational work in national industry by organizing five different types of workers, including those in two furniture stores, four clothing establishments, one ice plant, two food and liquor stores or factories, and one blacksmith. The Santa Ana Brigade will revive the Tenants' Committee in its area and will carry on the fight against Fuerza y Luz, the electric power company. It will continue to work for the cause of peace and will collect 500 signatures to be sent to the U.N. What appears to be a budget for the Santa Ana Brigade for the Four Months' Plan indicates that during that period they will have accounts receivable of \$151.25. The monthly quota assigned the sixteen members of the brigade varies from 50¢ to \$.5. Of these sixteen individuals nine are listed as militants, including Hugo Victor, Silvia de Souza, Lenin Brower, J. Stavrou, Luis Caceres, Luis Avila, I. Lopez, José Meneses, and Albertina de Victor.

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6. It is of possible interest to note in general the plans submitted by the other brigades at the meeting on 28 January. The Maranon Brigade, headed by Cesar De Leon and Reuben Souza, pledged itself to increase activity in thirteen industries in its area for the purpose of boycotting or stopping the flow of American products into Panama. This brigade pledged itself to establish a cell in each of the three districts of the area. Regarding the tenant problem, Maranon will hold meetings in sixteen houses in their area to organize tenants. The program on international affairs will be contributed to through the formation of a Progressive Forces Committee and a Committee for the Defense of the Constitution. The JPR will be mobilized, and a women's federation will be formed. The brigade has taken a quota of 200 copies a week of El Patriota and has guaranteed to raise \$50 a month in addition to its regular dues.
7. The tasks volunteered by the other brigades were different only in scope. The proposal of the Santa Ana Brigade to be active only in five industries met stiff opposition; it was recommended that this brigade handle at least ten. The Granillo Brigade, headed by Miguel Purcell and Juan Nieto, promised to cover four industries. The fourth brigade, San Felipe, lead by Luis Mendoza and Julian Jaramillo, pledged similar efforts. The meeting of the Maranon Brigade on 2 February revealed that although the brigade's plan had been presented, the actual work to be done by the members and the quotas assigned had not yet been fully discussed or accepted by the members. Reuben Souza addressed the brigade, reviewing the present international situation, and stating that the U.S. would lose the backing of many of the Western nations if she insisted on the use of the atomic bomb in Korea.
8. Various reports have been received indicating internal trouble in the PDP, and new security measures being taken. For instance, the PDP is concerned over the current presence of Celso Solano, ex-PDP Secretary General, at meetings of the Frente Patriótico Juventud (FPJ). Carlos Cajal and others have stated that Solano will become a traitor to the FPJ just as he is to the PEP. Cajal and his group continue openly to attack Hugo Victor as inept, ignorant, and unable properly to direct the party. This group also claims that the present National Directorate is not the result of an election at a national congress and consequently has no real authority to direct the affairs of the party. This group is clamoring for a complete reorganization and the expulsion of those members who are unable to resist the attraction of Yankee imperialism.

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9. At a meeting held on 4 January by the Santa Ana Brigade, Hugo Victor spent much of the time criticizing the indolence of the members and in particular their failure to progress in organization among the laboring masses. He confronted Silvia Díez de Souza with the possibility that she was acting contrary to party interests; she is employed as a librarian in the Santo Tomás Hospital. Victor demanded that she explain the fact that she had obtained her position through the friendship of Juan de Dios Poveda, Chief of the Secret Police. Victor stated that the situation was being thoroughly investigated. Again, in a meeting of the Santa Ana Brigade on 24 January, Hugo Victor chose another member as an example of the poor militancy within the party. [He stated that Carlos del Cid had, since acquiring a position in the Census, practically retired from party activities, claiming that he needed to save his job. He and others like him will be expelled from the party.]

10. Recently the Secret Police have been holding members of the PDP for questioning. On 1 February they interrogated J. Napoleon Nativi, who answered all questions in vague terms, denying knowledge of specific individuals who are members of the PDP. On 2 February Modesto Porto was questioned, particularly concerning Communist literature arriving in Panama by mail from Mexico addressed to "Lilia" del Rosario. This is actually Delia del Rosario, Porto's estranged wife, who is active in the PDP. Porto denied any knowledge of this individual. Following these arrests, members of the PDP have stated that they suspect one of their members to be working for the Secret Police. On 4 February they became suspicious of Santiago Sanchez, a member of the Maranon Brigade, who was ostentatiously waving a beer bottle in one hand and a roll of bills in the other. Sanchez has been unemployed for some time.

11. One of the other current activities of the PDP is its efforts in opposition to the anti-Communist bill currently on the agenda of the National Assembly. The PDP has distributed several fly sheets opposing this bill and has had the support of organizations such as the Liberal Party, the Frente Democrática, and the FPJ. On at least two occasions Hugo Victor and other PDP members visited the National Assembly as spectators on days when this bill was scheduled to be heard.

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